

# The Sun.

FOR 1888.  
The year 1888 promises to be a year of splendid political developments, and all redounding to the glory and triumph of a

## UNITED DEMOCRACY.

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## THE SUN,

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1887.

Up to the Arctic Zone.

An interesting view of the fishery controversy is presented in the *Pull Mall Gazette* by a writer from Ottawa, reporting a conversation with a fishery expert of the Dominion who had been employed to get up various information required by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S Commission in Washington.

"What do you think about the Commission?" I asked.  
"There is not a man in Washington," they all started to say together, "who knows anything about fishing except so far as somebody else has pointed him."

Has any statesman of the United States thought seriously of pinching the maritime Canadians a little as regards the American market for the fish they catch for sale?

Suppose that the American market for this product of their sea should be closed, would they do then? Would the annexationist cry rise in consequence? And, if they came to us with a request to be admitted as States of the American Union, should we be very sorry about it, and should we make very hard terms with them?

However this may turn out, there would seem to be a solid foundation for the opinion entertained by the late Mr. SEWARD, that the American Union is destined some day to include all the lands and peoples situated between the present northern boundary of the United States and the Arctic zone.

No Magic in It.

Three years ago this month the Supervisory Board of Commissioners of the New York Municipal Civil Service, consisting of Mr. EVERETT F. WHEELER, Mr. EDWIN L. GODKIN, and Mr. E. B. ROBINSON, laid down in grandiloquent though somewhat clumsy language the following principles:

"There is no magic in competitive examinations. They eliminate the elements of favoritism and partisanship, from appointments to office, as far as possible. But as to the determination of the comparative fitness of the applicant, everything depends upon the skill and judgment of the Examining Board."

Of the skill and judgment of the Examining Board in this town there can be no question. If the examiners are incompetent, nobody but Mr. GODKIN, Mr. WHEELER, and Mr. ROBINSON is to blame.

We now get from the Commissioners of Police some plain-spoken and impressive testimony as to the utter failure of the new system of appointment to furnish the force with a better sort of policemen than before.

Asked by Mr. WHEELER, Mr. GODKIN, and Mr. ROBINSON how the system works in the Police Department, the Commissioners reply with facts and figures that knock the Chinese method off its feet. If we may be allowed the expression:

The competitive examinations have yielded just about 1,000 policemen since the system went into practical operation. The product is now extensive enough to admit of generalization and of comparison with the old order of things when the men responsible for the behavior of the force were permitted to choose policemen themselves.

The percentage of dismissals and resignations from the force under various charges is the measure of the competency and personal worthiness of the policemen. During the past three years this percentage has been three and a half per cent. among the policemen appointed under the old system, and more than two and a half per cent. among the competitive examination products of the past year.

The percentage of all complaints against the police system, policemen was 32 per cent. against the civil service reform policemen, 14.31 per cent.

These facts seem to us to be unanswerable and conclusive. The competitive examinations yield men inferior to those selected before the new-fangled machine was started.

We conclude, therefore, that Mr. GODKIN and his associates for once told the unvarnished truth about civil service reform. There is no magic in competitive examinations, nor common sense, nor practical use.

The Sickly Green Man is Found.

We have now got hold of the miserable man who devised the sickly green two-out postage stamp. We have got him by the ear, and we shall not let go until he squeals.

The name of the subordinate in the Post Office who acknowledges the responsibility for the change from brown to misanthropic green is GEORGE A. HOWARD. Note the name, and it will become memorable in the annals of misanthropy.

Howard has been unmercifully the difficult investigations of a correspondent of the *Boston Record*, a journal which has thus earned the gratitude of every person of refined perceptions and correct taste in the United States. Like a thousand or more other newspapers, of all shades of political opinion, the *Boston Record* has been helping THE SUN to express the universal popular demand for the immediate suppression of this pale-green Hurothumbo.

It has done good service in tracking the hideous blunder to its source.

The discovery is instructive, and not a little startling. It is not reassuring to find that in a matter of this importance, for we insist that no other one thing, little or great, exercises such a constant and far-reaching aesthetic influence for good or bad upon so many millions of people as the color of the unit stamp of letter postage—the power of decision rests with a \$2.25 clerk in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. The system is wrong. No underling of that grade ought to be entrusted with the settlement of a question of taste affecting not only every man, woman, and child who ever

posts or receives a letter, but also the national reputation of the eyes and ears of the whole world. The question of color is sufficiently important to require the earnest attention of a carefully selected commission of experts, their authoritative decision to be confirmed by the action of Congress. And yet here is the whole matter settled off-hand at the dictation of a \$2.25 clerk at a desk in room 45 of the General Post Office!

For the man HOWARD not only admits having inflicted the sickly green stamp upon the American people, but actually boasts of it. The vanity of the petty employee who has been enabled through the ignorance or indifference of his superiors to perpetrate a giant wrong appears in HOWARD'S remarks on the subject of the sickly green stamp, as reported by the *Boston Record*. He is proud of his power to fasten this odious, mouldy thing upon the American people, and he defies public sentiment. We shall see.

From the *Boston Record*'s description of the sickly green man, we gather that he is a somewhat corpulent person, about forty years old, red whiskered, and with a "maple sugar smile." Just such an individual, we should say, as might be expected to select the particularly obnoxious shade of green which now disgraces the Post Office Department and dishonors America.

Remember his name—GEORGE A. HOWARD. Remember his sickly green appearance as we now take him up by the nape of the neck and exhibit him to an exasperated people.

Men and Women.

In an essay published a few months ago GEORGE J. ROMANES, an eminent disciple of DARWIN, presented the evidence, anatomical and psychological, to prove that intellectual man is superior to woman. Having stated the anatomical fact that the average brain weight of civilized woman is about five ounces, less than that of the average man, he proceeded to show by comparison of the intellectual performances of the two sexes that in the results of cerebral action the male is distinctly superior.

But Mr. ROMANES took care to express the sound opinion that "sheer force, even in the direction of creative thought, is only one, and rightly viewed, not the chief" among all the wonderful excellencies which the human mind displays. He also elevated woman to a position of moral superiority, and paid a high tribute to their virtues.

It seems now, from a supplementary paper on the same general subject which he contributes to the last number of the *Forum*, that his women critics declare that Mr. ROMANES has as much overestimated the moral virtues of woman as he has underestimated their intellectual capacity. They either refuse to believe his statement as to the relative weight of the male and the female brain, or they maintain that there is no invariable correlation between brain weight and mental capacity. He answers that the difference in weight is a well-established and incontrovertible fact, and that, though it might prove nothing in individual cases, it is conclusive as affecting one-half of the human race. He shows, too, that the frequent supposition that what the female brain lacks in weight it gains in quality is not sustained by the facts. If it were true, the convolutions would be deeper, the cells in the gray matter more numerous, or the blood supply more copious; but in all these respects the brain of woman is found to be deficient as compared with that of man.

As to the rejoinder of most of his women critics that he has overestimated the moral virtues of woman, he can only reply by saying: "No doubt they ought to know best, and I can only express sorrow if in this matter they are right."

It is remarkable to find so many women writers, especially of this period, agreeing with them rather than him in that respect. We quoted the other day from a woman who ridiculed Senator BLAINE'S argument that the female sex was morally the superior; and Mrs. LINTON, who has written so much on various phases of the woman question, has frequently expressed sentiments like hers.

In the last number of the *National Review* of London, E. F. LAYARD severely rebukes a large number of the novelists of England as panders to immoral and vicious tastes. The men novelists of England do not so often offend on this score, he says, "It is the women novelists who, with prophetic touches, depict scenes, and lay bare details, over which they would do wisely to drop the curtain of silence." She also declares that the translators of the "realistic, sensuous, and loathsome novels of the lowest and most depraved type of French literature" are, in most cases, women!

Castaways on Little Islands.

We published the other day the story of survivors of a shipwrecked crew who lived for nine months on an uninhabited little island and several hundred miles from the Marshall group in the Pacific. When they deserted the island in a scow they left to whatever fate might befall him one of their number who had murdered two of their comrades. Unless relief is sent him it is not probable that, like DRYDEN'S hero, he might live there alone for years before a passing vessel picked him up. Hundreds of these little Pacific islands are rarely seen by ships, and many of them are shown on the best maps with inter-rogation points to indicate that their position even is not accurately known.

Castaways who suffer from months on uninhabited islands are not so few in number as might be supposed. The English newspaper announced a few weeks ago that a vessel was to be sent to the Crozet Islands in the Indian Ocean, almost within sight of Antarctica, to rescue some shipwrecked people who are supposed to be there. Many of these far southern islands are out of the track of ships, and castaways might live on some of them for years without being discovered. The Crozet's are famous as the uninviting home of several shipwrecked crews. A while ago the survivors of the slooper *Starbuck* reached the Crozet's, where they lived for many weeks on penguin flesh and eggs before a vessel luckily happened to leave a sight. A few weeks ago there arrived in England eight of the crew of the *Derry Castle*, which was wrecked off the Auckland Islands, south of New Zealand. They had a hard struggle for life during the three months they spent on the islands. Shell fish and sea animals were all their food, and a regular diet of oysters pulled on their appetites long before they escaped it. There was timber in abundance, but the poor fellows had no matches, and they had to eat their food raw until one of them happened to find a cartridge in his pocket. They were thus able to kindle a fire, whose flames were fed night and day during the remainder of their stay in this insular prison.

They found a bottle of salt, which proved a most desirable adjunct to their provisions. The salt is supposed to have been left there by the crew of the *Starbuck*, who were cast away on these islands twenty years ago, and lived there many months. They had saved some creature comforts from their ship, which rendered existence more endurable. Their exile was far longer than that of the crew of the *Derry Castle*.

We notice that a good many of the churches of this city are making the present holiday season unusually pleasant for the Sunday school children. The edifices are decorated for the occasion, and festivals are held within their walls. On Wednesday night, at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, there were spectacular performances full of fun, in the case of SANTA CLAUSES, who were laden with presents, which they distributed with the accustomed humor, not forgetting the minister. This novel

signal fire was observed after they had lived three months on fish.

Among the most terrible of shipwrecks are those of the whalers and sealers in Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean. It is probable that some of these unfortunate reach land only to perish in the desolate regions of the north. Our Government was requested a few years ago by our signal service expedition to Point Barrow to maintain a permanent station there for the relief of shipwrecked sailors, but no bill was ever passed on the suggestion.

Defending their Highlands.

King JOHN'S ablest General, RAS ALULA, is confronting the Italians on the northwest edge of the Abyssinian plateau, and two forces of the King's troops are advancing toward Massowah along the more easterly routes by which access to the highlands may be gained from the coast. The evident purpose of the dusky monarch is to keep the thousands of Italians, most of whom are fresh arrivals in Africa, in the deadly lowlands, where he well knows that the fevers of the coast are likely to prove as fatal to the newcomers as the fiercest onslaughts of his warriors. Massowah is one of the hottest and most unhealthy places on the coast, and hundreds of Italians have already perished there during their brief occupancy of the island. A march inland and up the mountains forty miles from Massowah would place the invaders on the great plain, from 6,000 to 8,000 feet above the sea, and enable them to fight under favorable conditions.

Though the low valleys among the mountains are always unhealthy, no part of tropical Africa is endowed with so fine a climate as the plateaus of Abyssinia, and the chief aim of the Italians, in the early part of the coming struggle, will doubtless be to gain a foothold in the highlands. If they win a position among the mountains, victory may already be half won, for the severest tests of their endurance and resources will probably confront them at the outset.

Mr. DE COSSON, one of the latest travelers on the road from Massowah to Adowa, the chief town of northern Abyssinia, says that camels cannot climb the rocky passes leading up to the highlands, and that oxen and mules are the only beasts of burden that can ascend the steep slopes. The highway to Adowa is only a rough and narrow path, generally traversed on foot and often winding along the edge of dangerous precipices. The Abyssinians, fighting as they honestly believe for the life of their nation and their homes, will be able, though greatly inferior in equipment, to make a desperate resistance under circumstances that are so unfavorable to the maneuvers of European troops.

Though the men with the best and biggest number of guns will probably win, they will set out on no holiday excursion when they attempt the mountain passes in the face of Abyssinian defenders.

The Case Stated Exactly.

How simply that fiery free trader the *Philadelphia Record* presents one argument against unnecessary reductions of the tariff:

"The members of the Steel Combination are just as anxious to reduce the duty upon clothing as they are the beneficiaries immediately interested. The fear is that if one link in the chain should be dropped the whole system would fall to pieces; and it is this sentiment which makes the tariff combination so treacherous in its purpose of resistance."

That is true. The destruction of one protected interest would be looked upon as the beginning of an assault upon all, and the *Record* appears to see this as well as the most intelligent protectionist.

The same principle holds good regarding abstract arguments against special features of the tariff, of which there has lately been a very noticeable instance. Arguing for a reduction of the tariff by illustrating the great virtues of free trade is a practical demonstration against the whole system, and apt to affect the popular mind with infinitely greater force than any number of disclaimers of free trade sympathies.

And as soon as this fact is appreciated by statesmen who do not yet seem to have got it into their noddies, the political situation, particularly as regards the Democratic party, will be cleared up in a remarkable degree.

Can it be true that General CLINTON B. FISK, soldier and prohibitionist, was an important party to the unjustifiable use of Mrs. CLEVELAND'S name as a contributor to the Prohibition campaign fund? The facts of this interesting case are that in a meeting where money was demanded, some one in the audience asked Mr. FISK whether he would give \$100, and "I'll pay it," and General FISK says now, according to the *Philadelphia Record*, that he adopted this suggestion out of "mere pleasantries."

It is unnecessary to consider the possible effects of Mrs. CLEVELAND'S campaign subscription to the Prohibition cause, but it is proper to say that General FISK's part in the affair was more distant than removed from the limits of gentlemanly conduct than is tolerable. Why, even if General FISK should question Colonel NICHOLAS SMITH upon the matter, he would almost certainly be told that he was not to meddle with the private affairs of good men and true.

Poor Mr. JOHN JAY! His services as a Civil Service Commissioner no longer required!

The most noticeable feature connected with the leading strike has been the abundance of men who stood ready to take the places vacated by the strikers. All the reports agree that large numbers of trustworthy and experienced men offered their services without waiting to be advertised for. They hustled to Reading and Pottsville from other parts of Pennsylvania and from the adjacent States. The officers of the various departments sent notice to headquarters that there was no difficulty in procuring the men needed in the business. Many of the new men are members of unions, including the engineers' union, and many of the others formerly belonged to the order whose managers proclaimed the strike. To these facts must be added others of a peculiar kind, such as the refusal of many Knights of Labor to obey the mandates of their leaders and the widespread assertion of personal independence among members of the order unaccustomed to its exercise. Under such circumstances it was impossible for the leaders of the strike to look for success in their senseless undertaking. President COLMAN has given notice to the strikers that he will not support them, and that he will not support the strikers' union. He will suggest the propriety of their withdrawing from the strike, and that he will not support them. He will suggest the propriety of their withdrawing from the strike, and that he will not support them.

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incident in church service proved highly enjoyable to all concerned in it. The ladies of the various churches have, of course, been the chief promoters of the innocent pleasures of the holiday season.

Those used to be a sort of rule among students for the night directing them when they could think of nothing else to do to pitch into the Pope; and there is a rule among a certain stripe of public journals, when they can't think of anything else to write on, to pitch into Mr. RANDALL. This rule is obeyed by our valued contemporary, the *Chicago Herald*, with the addition of a slight attack upon Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, also, because he has not seen fit to use his power as Speaker for the purpose of reducing RANDALL to the ranks. "The shrinking speaker," says the *Herald*, "has again appointed RANDALL as the chief maker of the rules." The Speaker by appointment RANDALL, who sold the interests of the five million victorious voters whose will should prevail in the lower House.

The *Chicago Herald* does not usually talk like a fool, and why should it talk like a fool now? Mr. RANDALL holds the great place he occupies by virtue of ability, character, knowledge, and courage. To him, personally, it makes no difference whether he is appointed to this post or to that or to none at all. Where the McGinnis sits is the head of the table, and where SAM RANDALL is honor, patriotism, integrity, intellectual power, experience, and fidelity stand forth distinguished.

It was a bold act of COURAGE to make a personal protest to the *Czar* against the imperial mandate for the closing of the six great universities of Russia at the very time the nihilists were scattering seditious handbills over St. Petersburg in the interest of the rebellious students. But the *Czar* listened to the protest, and even ordered the inquiry which the Count de Tchernichev had made into the banishment of the university rebels to Siberia. The *Czar* himself would not dare to consign to such a doom ten thousand young students belonging to the families of the highest social rank in Russia.

Some Tennessee man has sent President CLEVELAND a big golden eagle as a Christmas present. 'Tis an original gift, but the Mugwump bird has already been knocked out. Spurious and bilious he drops about the rooms of the Harvard Union, Cambridge, Mass. Nobody but boys fancies him.

When such jargon as this creeps into official print it must be denounced. We blush to say that the State Board of Health of New York sends this report to Governor HILL:

"It is the unanimous opinion of those posted in such matters that it would be difficult to imagine a worse state of affairs than now exists at the Quarantine station."

Such use of the word "posted" is a mark of ignorance and vulgarity wholly unworthy of statesmen. Whoever practices it should not be permitted to serve the State of New York, except possibly as a bookkeeper.

The saying of the ancient Greek lawyer, SOLOON, "An injury to one is the concern of all," which forms the motto of the Knights of Labor, is more moonshine to Boss POWDERLY, who does injury to all his followers without concern to himself.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Times*, thinks that we owe it an apology. What for? Why, for saying, when we republished a certain article of the *Age*, that we took it from the columns of the *Age*. If this requires an apology, we must make one to fifty newspapers every day; for it is our invariable rule to credit to every journal any statement that we quote from its columns.

Moral: Be sure you're right, and then go ahead.

President BAYLES of the Board of Health says that Battle Row is in good sanitary condition. Yes, but it seems to be a somewhat unhealthy locality for gentlemen who do not care for pugilistic exercises, and are anxious to carry home eyes that do not need painting.

It is not often that the pursuit of learning and science knocks out the general system of human utility. It is impossible, however, to approve the loss of science shown by those two Pennsylvania boys who went to the train for the sake of showing "how quickly it would stop." This wild desire to follow, so to speak, a train of thought, must be regarded as distinctly an obstruction.

Just after publishing the report of the magnificent bequest of the late Mrs. ASTOR, we have news from Boston that a wealthy citizen, just deceased, Mr. WILLIAM HILTON, has bequeathed half a million dollars to various colleges, hospitals, and missionary societies.

Such deeds are growing in frequency year after year; but a collection of the facts would assuredly show that they have been much more frequent within the past few years than they ever were before.

This is not a country of kings, but it is the king country by a long and a short way. It is the country of the most successful monarchs. It seems that even the most successful Arabian fakirs owe their fortunes to selling holy Mohammedan relics made on the Bowery. We are indeed a great country.

Levinthal LEAHY is a whaler. He is not content with the fact that his mass-messenger raft has broken up without killing anybody. He wants the United States to give him a subsidy for the purpose of constructing obstructions to commerce. LEAHY is a sea nemesis.

Is Boston well? There was a dinner there last night which began after 4 P. M. Is this not an unusual assimilation to the customs of civilized cities?

Mr. Cleveland's Expected Supplemental Message.

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THE SOUTH'S IRON INDUSTRY.

Shipment Regarding War Resources for the South.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—One of the most noticeable points in Major Powell's new volume on the mineral resources of the United States is its skepticism touching the possession by the South of resources sufficient even to do much in the way of steel making. But it boasts Southern pig iron enough, perhaps, to make up the volume reviews the condition of the South's iron industry, and the war, in a conservative way. At the earliest period the Southern iron industry rested almost wholly on charcoal as fuel for its blast furnaces. Charcoal pig iron was in more general use, and the South was in line with the popular demand. Its ores were widely distributed as well as could be, in its way, compared with Northern furnaces in their own markets. Later arose two conditions which proved obstacles. One was the tendency to cheapen pig iron by using mineral fuel instead of charcoal. The South's coal mines were few, and it seemed too indolent to open more. The rolling mill was far superior to the blastery and refinery works, and the South's rolling mills were very scarce. James M. Swank, who writes this article on iron and steel, admits that the South, laboring under these conditions, and obliged to adopt practically new methods, and with these two methods left up an industry almost prostrated by the war, has made progress. Mr. Swank asks and answers these questions:

1. Does the South possess the resources needed to sustain her iron and steel industries even upon their present scale of development?

2. Has she an abundance of ores and coaling coal?

3. Are many of her ores suitable for the manufacture of steel?